

# Deciding What's Important

*Rick Warren*

I. Introduction. The foundation of a purpose driven life is integrity.

II. Prioritize the values that matter most then evaluate your life and bring it into harmony with what you believe.

A. Your values determine your life.

B. Values determine stress, influence success, and they affect your salvation. (James 1:8, Proverbs 4:23, Mark 8:36-37)

C. The source of values is either from the world or from Christ.

1. Values of the world cause people to miss Christ:

a. Pleasure. This is good, but it cannot be the goal.

b. Possessions. Self-worth is not measured by net worth. (Luke 12)

c. Pride from wealth and importance. (I John 2:16)

2. Most of the values we have we did not choose—they were just placed on us by society.

III. How to build one's life on lasting values.

A. Evaluate what is important. (Job 33:34)

1. Success is the feeling I get when I live out my values.

2. The question to ask is what is going to last.

3. Pleasure in sin is fleeting.

4. We rarely take the time to examine our values until a life crisis.

B. Eliminate what is not important.

1. Do not fill your life with garbage.

2. Do not let the world squeeze you into its mold. (Romans 12:2)

3. The purpose of life is Christ. (Philippians 3:8)

C. Concentrate on eternal values.

1. Set aside five or ten minutes a day to evaluate whether your life is lining up with your values.

2. Faith, hope and love last. (I Corinthians 13:13)
3. There is no roadmap, but God has given us an internal guide.
4. The kingdom of God summarizes God's value system. We are to seek this first.
5. The quality of our life purpose will be an outgrowth of what one worships.

**Application questions:**

1. How would you evaluate your personal integrity?

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2. What do you value? What would you like to value in light of eternity?

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3. What are some things you can eliminate in your life that are not advancing God's kingdom? Explain.

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